

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT  
REGULAR WORK SESSION  
MONDAY, MAY 2, 2011  
6:00P.M.**

**1. OPENING**

**1.1.1 Call to Order**

Council President Gatling called the meeting to order at 6: 01p.m.

**1.1.2 Roll Call**

Present: Councilmember Latasha Gatling, Mayor Eugene Grant (Late Arrival 6:32p.m.), Councilmember Darrell Hardy, Councilmember Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gerald R. Raynor, Sr., Councilmember Elenora Simms, Councilmember Aretha Stephenson, Councilmember Reveral Yeargin(Late Arrival 7:10p.m.)

Staff: Robert Ashton, Acting City Administrator, Dashaun N. Lanham, City Clerk,

**1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:**

The invocation was given by Councilwoman Stephenson

**1.1.4. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved with the following modifications:

Add 6.3. Refuse RFP

It was motioned by Councilmember Simms and seconded by Councilmember Hardy to approve the agenda with the modifications. The motion carried.

**2. PRESENTATIONS:**

**2.1. Michele LaRocca and Arrington Hughes:**

- Ms. LaRocca introduced Mr. Arrington Hughes. They stated that the property is a split zone property. When Park and Planning started Sub Region IV they left the property as a split zone.
- Ms. LaRocca stated that they are interested in utilizing the whole property if considered by the City Council. She stated that the property could be revitalized. They sent out thirty-seven (37) letters and didn't get any objection to their plans.

- Councilwoman Gatling wanted to know how come Mr. Arrington has not beautified the property now. He stated that zoning prevents him from installing the fence. The R55 property does not permit usage with the business. The fence can be installed, but the concern is the zoning. They are looking for a special exception.
- Councilman Porter stated that he would be happy to entertain their idea if he could see a plan or design.
- Councilwoman Stephenson inquired about the type of fencing being installed. She wanted to know if the fence will prevent anyone from accessing the property and does anyone have a way of contacting Mr. Hughes, if necessary.
- Councilwoman Gatling wanted to know what he has contributed to the community since he has been in Seat Pleasant. Mr. Hughes stated that he hasn't contributed much, but the noise of the vehicles. Councilwoman Gatling wanted to know how many times have the city repaved the Eads Street. Mr. Ashton stated in the last ten (10) years at least three (3) times. Mr. Ashton stated that this is in particular due to the usage of the road with the heavy industrial vehicles.
- Ms. LaRocca stated that the Industrial Zoning is a benefit to the City due to higher tax bracket. The business doesn't require the same services as a residential.
- Mr. Hughes stated that he has been the owner of the property since 2008.
- Ms. LaRocca stated that she wanted to know if the request could be considered. Councilwoman Gatling stated that the City Council will have a discussion and have the attorney follow up with Ms. LaRocca.
- The City Council discussed the request of Mr. Hughes for a special exception to change the zoning from split to all industrial.
- Councilwoman Gatling asked each council person their position on allowing the special exception: Hardy, Simms, Stephenson, Raynor and Gatling are opposed the special exception. Councilman Porter would like to see the renderings of the Mr. Hughes for the development.
- Councilwoman Gatling stated that she will notify the City Attorney of the Council decisions.

### **3. LEGISLATION**

- Ordinance O-11-08 Vacant Dwelling Introduction. The first reading was delayed until the Council reviewed and discussed the legislation. The City Council recommended that the legislation be placed back into the Public Safety Committee.

- Ordinance O-11-09Chapter 150 Vehicle and Traffic-The City Council recommended that the legislation be placed back into the Public Safety Committee.

#### **4. REPORTS**

##### **4.1. Mayor's Report:**

- Mayor Grant stated that there will be a rally taking place in Prince George's County to support President Obama in his efforts.
- Mayor Grant stated that the Crime Prevention Training was held on Saturday, April 2, 2011. Please continue to encourage your residents to attend the monthly meetings.
- Mayor Grant attended the Crime Summit held at Prince George's County on sexual abuse.
- Mayor Grant stated that he presented the budget to the Seat Pleasant Civic Association. He participated in the Park & Planning Sub Region IV meeting. The meetings are getting very interested in particular as it relates to the development of the purple and blue lines.
- Mayor Grant stated that he mentioned in the last two meetings about collaborating with neighboring cities.
- He participated with the County Executive on Friday with the Brazilian Government.
- The Health Summit will be held on May 12, 2011 at the Seat Pleasant Activity Center. We have been in partnership with the University of Maryland for fifteen (15) years. He would like to see Seat Pleasant as the face with the University of Maryland Health Partnership.
- We had a very successful run with the first annual Sally Joseph/HIV with Heart to Hand. Sally Joseph died last year and in honor of her memory the walk was established.
- Mayor Grant stated that he is behind in submitting the information on the Feggans Center. He has submitted some information to the City Clerk, but the Council President stated that all information will be submitted at the same time. He will be getting the information together for submission to the full council.
- Mayor Grant stated that he would like the Council to provide support on the completion of the Veterans Day marker.

##### **4.2. City Administrator Report:**

- Robert Ashton, Acting City Administrator Report: Mr. Ashton stated that his report has the following stages to it.

- Green Curve Appeal-Phase II had received seventeen (17) applications and rejected six (6). The City Council stated to Mr. Ashton that they informed him that any recipients from the first phase should not be considered. They stated this will allow other households to participate in the green initiative program. Mr. Ashton stated that he would inform the recipients that submitted applications in phase I that they are not eligible to participate. He further stated that he did not follow the Council instructions.
- Update on Internal Audit-Mr. Etoh will provide a report on the Internal Audit on May 10, 2011.
- Cocoa Perrel-This is pertaining to the Pony Rides for Seat Pleasant Day. They submitted a release for the City to sign, which will release them from all liability. The City Attorney modified the release of liability form, and the company would not agree to the terms. We will ask them if they would agree to the riders signing a waiver of liability.
- February Financial Statement-He will be submitting the financial to the City Council. Mr. Ashton informed the Council of the surplus.
- ShoreScan, the cost will be \$2,085, next year it will be \$1,635 based on one file cabinet.
- We will need roughly \$9,000 annually for the I-Net program.

#### **Council Committee Reports:**

##### **4.3A Economic Development, Housing and Planning-**

- Councilwoman Simms stated she would like to know if the Council will agree to allow Mr. Ashton to review the application for the Economic Development Coordinator position. The main goal is the Feggans Center. We have the approved job description for the position. She would like to know if he could bring a person in on a contractual basis. Councilwoman Simms stated that it would be up to the City Administrator to give the person assignments.
- The Council President wanted to know if the Council would be in agreement to a hiring panel that consists of Economic experts from other municipalities, Mr. Ashton and the Council President.
- Councilman Porter recommended that the Acting City Administrator gather the panel together as quickly as possible and provide the information to the City Clerk for the City Council.

##### **4.3B Finance & Budget Committee-**

- Councilwoman Stephenson stated that the committee met on Thursday, April 28, 2011. The discussion was regarding the gas consumption. They were informed that the gas card system does not turn off. Mr. Ashton recommended

that the gas cards be retrieved at the consumption of 85 gallons. The committee recommended that when the officers are going to training that they use their personal vehicles and be reimbursed through their training budget. They have requested segways, but the committee was going to recommend bikes. They discussed the city purchasing property for the police department. The City will put in a grant application to acquire property. Councilman Porter recommended that the monies be utilized for the School and/or the Fire Department from the monies for the speed camera.

#### **4.3. C Government Affairs & Technology-**

- Councilman Porter stated that he is recommending the laptops for the City Council to save on the cost of production of each meeting packages. He has recommended that the City Staff start wearing their badges. Councilman Porter referenced the statement made by a resident regarding the committee reports. Councilman Porter stated that the design of the committee is to meet when necessary, which doesn't mean monthly.

#### **4.3. D Human Services, Health and Education-**

- Councilman Yeargin stated that the committee did not have a meeting.

#### **4.3. E Public Safety, Civil Rights-**

- Councilman Raynor stated that the committee met today and the Chief has requested the Council amend the fee schedule on the speed camera.
- Councilwoman Gatling stated that it is her understanding that the fee established was in accordance to the law. However, she will have the City Attorney to verify.

#### **4.3. F Public Works & Transportation Committee-**

- Councilman Hardy stated that the committee did not have a meeting.

### **5. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **5.1. Request for Funds for the Mayoral Medal of Service Award (MMSA)**

- Councilman Porter wanted to know where the monies will be coming from to pay for the request. Mr. Ashton stated that the request was to come from the Community Service Department. Councilman Porter stated that he will give the monies from his constituency fund in the amount of \$100.00.
- Councilwoman Simms motioned to deny the request for funds for the Mayoral Medal Service Award due to the monies not being allocated in the budget. It was seconded by Councilwoman Stephenson. The motion carried.
- FOR: Gatling, Hardy, Raynor, Simms and Stephenson
- ABSTAIN: Porter

- AGAINST: Yeargin

## **5.2. Request for Funds for the Seat Pleasant Ethics Board**

- The Council reviewed Chapter 18 of the City Code regarding the Ethics Board. The City Council President requested that the City Clerk send out a letter to the Ethics Board requesting them to meet with the City Council regarding the request for funding.

## **5.3. Use of Council Chambers**

- Councilwoman Simms stated that the City Clerk had prepared a schedule of the usage for Council Chambers from April 25, 2011 to December 27, 2011. The Council has requested the locks be changed to the exterior and the interior of chamber doors.
- The City Clerk should draft a memorandum from the Council President to each requestor for Council Chambers to be removed.

## **5.4. Update on Memorandum's submitted to Acting City Administrator**

- Councilwoman Simms stated that Mr. Ashton has answered each memorandum request submitted. If you would like a copy, please request them from the City Clerk.

## **5.5. Approved Shredding Day, Saturday, June 18, 2011**

- Councilwoman Stephenson stated that the event will be held at Seat Pleasant Elementary School. Dr. Lassiter, Principal will provide written approval for use of the parking lot.
- Councilwoman Stephenson stated that she needs two councilpersons for the committee. The Committee consists of Councilman Porter, Councilwoman Simms and Councilwoman Stephenson.
- It was motioned by Councilwoman Stephenson and seconded by Councilman Yeargin to approve the shredding day on Saturday, June 18, 2011. The motion carried. The motion passed unanimously
- FOR: Gatling, Hardy, Porter, Raynor, Simms, Stephenson and Yeargin
- AGAINST: None
- ABSTAIN: None

## **5.6. Seat Pleasant Fire Department Request to use City Hall Parking Lot**

- The City Council stated that if the solar panel construction starts before the requested date that Mr. Ashton must verify if the parking lot will be usable. If the parking lot is usable they can use the lot.

## **6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### **6.1. I-Net Resolution Approval**

- Councilwoman Simms stated that the Resolution is for the approval of the bylaws for participation in the I-Net. Mr. Ashton stated that we will spend approximately \$9,000 per year.
- It was motioned by Councilwoman Simms and seconded by Councilman Porter to approve and accept the I-Net program. The motioned carried. Unanimously approved.
- FOR: Gatling, Hardy, Porter, Raynor, Simms, Stephenson and Yeargin
- AGAINST: None
- ABSTAIN: None

### **6.2. Approval of Step to Excellence program in Goodwin Park**

- It was motioned by Councilwoman Stephenson and seconded by Councilman Porter to approve the Walk to Excellence program. The motioned carried. Unanimously approved.
- FOR: Gatling, Hardy, Porter, Raynor, Simms, Stephenson and Yeargin
- AGAINST: None
- ABSTAIN: None

### **6.3. Refuse RFP-**

- Mr. Ashton stated that the committee will be meeting on Tuesday, April 26, 2011 and he will have a recommendation for the City Council on Saturday, May 14, 2011.

## **7. ANNOUNCEMENT**

7.1. Department FY2012 Budget Presentation, Wednesday, May 4, 2011, City Hall-Council Chambers at 5:30p.m.

7.2. Seat Pleasant Elementary School Career Day, Friday, May 6, 2011, Seat Pleasant Elementary School, 9:00a.m.

7.3. Annual Seat Pleasant Day, Saturday, May 7, 2011, City Hall Program 9:30a.m., Parade at 10:00a.m., Goodwin Park Activities 12:00p.m.-5:00p.m.

7.4. Public Session, Monday, May 9, 2011, City Hall-Council Chambers at 7:00p.m.

7.5. City Council FY2012 Budget Review, Saturday, May 14, 2011, City Hall-Council Chambers at 12:00p.m.

7.6. Walk to Excellence Walking Program, Saturday, May 21, 2011, Goodwin at 10:00a.m.

**ADJOURN**-The meeting adjourned at 10:05p.m.

Submitted by,



Dashaun N. Lanham

City Clerk

APPROVED 07/11/11